

Arlington Human Rights Commission
8/15/18 -- Meeting Notes
Jefferson Cutter House, 611 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02474
8:00-9:45 p.m.
Naomi Greenfield and David Swanson, Co-Chairs

Attendees: Co-chair Greenfield and Commissioners D'ondria Maxwell, Kristina Fontanez, Chris Huvos, Kristen Bauer, Sharon Grossman, Nick Minton, Betsy Carlton-Gysan

Absent: Co-chair Dave Swanson and Commissioners Gary Horowitz, William Logan, Christine Carney, Sheri Baron

Community Members: Susan Mortimer, Laura Kiesel

Co-chair Greenfield convened the meeting at 8:04 pm

- **Check-in / Meeting Roles (8:00PM-8:05PM | 5mins.)**
 - Secretary – Commissioner Carlton-Gysan
 - Time-Keeper – Commissioner Maxwell
 - Next-Stepper – Co-chair Greenfield
- **Minutes Approval (8:05PM-8:10PM | 5mins.)**
 - [June Minutes](#)
 - i. Co-chair Greenfield moved to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Fontanez seconded. All voted in favor except Commissioners Huvos, Maxwell, and Minton who abstained.
 - [July Minutes](#)
 - i. Co-chair Greenfield moved to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Fontanez seconded. All voted in favor except Commissioners Huvos and Maxwell who abstained.
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- **Commissioner Update (8:10PM-8:20PM | 10mins.)**
 - Commissioner updates were provided.
- **Citizens Open Forum (8:20PM-8:30PM | 10mins.)**
 - **Susan Mortimer – Arlington resident.** Ms. Mortimer is a long-time renter and feels that tenants aren't integrated into Arlington's community. As a self-proclaimed working class person with extensive experience with advocacy around the prison system, Ms. Mortimer doesn't see her viewpoint represented with Arlington's current implementation of restorative justice. Ms. Mortimer requests that a broader

group of resident voices be part of the discussion around police involvement in the community. AHRC invited Ms. Mortimer to attend the planned 10/13 event on restorative justice.

- **Laura Kiesel – Arlington resident.** Ms. Kiesel and Ms. Mortimer are members of Tenants for a Livable Arlington (TLA) – a newly formed group comprised of mostly renters with some homeowners and small business owners. TLA is looking to forge partnerships with other town groups. Ms. Kiesel lives in an apartment building that is managed by the Housing Corp of Arlington (HCA). She shared several examples of code violations and poor responsiveness by management to tenant concerns. In addition to AHRC, Ms. Kiesel has spoken with the Disability Commission and would like to continue conversations with multiple groups within Arlington. Ms. Kiesel submitted an AHRC complaint against a member the Executive Director of the HCA.

Ms. Kiesel also raised the issue of class discrimination on the Arlington List email listserv. She discussed examples of the moderator censoring dissenting views and making pejorative statements about low-income and disabled communities. While the listserv is privately run, it is listed on the Town of Arlington website as a resource. Ms. Kiesel would like to see it removed from official town channels. Ms. Kiesel submitted an AHRC complaint against the moderator of the Arlington List.

The Commissioners discussed the upcoming Double Take story event with Ms. Mortimer and Ms. Kiesel. All agreed it would be beneficial to encourage low-income residents to tell their own stories rather than representatives from other bodies like the HCA. Ms. Kiesel would like to be involved in the planning for that event. She also invited AHRC Commissioners to attend a TLA meeting.

- **Sub-Committee Report Out: (8:45PM-9:05PM | 20mins.)**

- [Restorative Justice](#) The circle in which Co-chair Greenfield has been participating held its final meeting. Co-chair Greenfield conveyed that it was a positive experience for all involved.
- Commissioner Fontanez represented AHRC at the first meeting of the circle for the student who wrote a homophobic slur. Commissioner Fontanez wrote a statement that was given to the facilitator of the circle. The Rainbow Commission also submitted a statement.
- [Fall Event](#)
 - i. Commissioners Bauer, Fontanez, and Grossman reported on the subcommittee meeting. They suggested the Restorative Justice event take place on Oct. 13th and the DoubleTake event take place on February 9th. Commissioner Grossman moved that the Commission approve up to \$800 in

spending for both events; Commissioner Bauer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- [Communications](#) Commissioner Carlton-Gysan reported that the next sub-committee meeting will be the first week of September. Details will be sent to the Commission members and to the Town for public posting.
- [Mid Year Report out on Incidents](#): Commissioner Bauer has reviewed the incidents reported to AHRC in 2018. She drafted two documents to keep track of the incidents addressed by the AHRC: one for internal complaint tracking and one public facing document that redacts the personally identifiable information of involved parties. The Commission reviewed the documents, provided feedback, and discussed next steps.
- [School Liaison](#) Commissioner Grossman shared a draft document about AHRC School Liaisons. The goal is to foster ongoing communications and support between AHRC and the school administration. Co-chair Greenfield questioned whether the Diversity and Inclusion Task Forces are taking some of this work on already. The Commission discussed the roles of the liaisons. Co-chair Greenfield and Commissioner Fontanez will take the document and questions to tomorrow's nights Diversity Taskforce meeting and report back to the Commission.
- [Rapid Response Team](#) No update.
- [Responding to Incidents Document](#) Commissioner Bauer reported on a sub-committee meeting. There were some questions that will be circulated to Commissioners for review and feedback.
- **Community events and info (9:05PM-9:15PM | 10mins.)**
 - [Town Day](#) Commissioner Fontanez reported on purchasing of signs and car magnets. She circulated a sheet for Commissioners to sign up for slots to staff the booth.
 - [Calendar](#)
 - i. Restorative Justice event date (Oct. 2018)
 - ii. Double-Take event date (Feb. 2019)
- **Correspondence/Incidents/Complaints (9:15PM-9:35PM | 20mins.)**
- **Next steps (9:35PM-9:45PM | 10mins.)**
 - September Meeting

Co-chair Greenfield moved to adjourn; Commissioner Fontanez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Carlton-Gysan.